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A committee of four was appointed to frame a set of units or scale of values for the interpretation of admission requirements and to consider some allied questions. Resolutions were passed advising that work in English and mathematics should be continued through the last school year; recommending that the organizations whose delegates compose the committee be urged to collect data and study the subject of standardizing colleges and universities; and calling the attention of colleges to the fact that lists of accredited schools are now published yearly by the New England College Entrance Certificate Board and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and may be obtained for general reference and use.

FREDERICK C. FERRY,  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE University of Illinois has celebrated the fortieth anniversary of its founding by a memorial convocation. The address given by Professor C. M. Moss was chiefly a tribute to Dr. T. J. Burrill, vice-president of the university and professor of botany, who has been connected with the institution since its first year.

THE *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for May 7 forms a *Festschrift* in honor of Reginald Heber Fitz, M.D., LL.D., Hersey professor of the theory and practise of physic in Harvard University, to celebrate his sixty-fifth birthday, which occurred on May 5.

PROFESSOR C. F. BRACKETT, of Princeton University, who recently retired from the Henry chair of physics, was the guest of honor at a dinner this week, given by the faculty and trustees.

At a recent meeting of the Toronto Academy of Medicine his portrait was presented to Dr. Reeve, dean of the medical faculty of the University of Toronto, who was president at the meeting of the British Medical Association held in Toronto in 1906.

A PORTRAIT of Dr. John J. M'Kendrick, professor of physiology in the University of

Glasgow from 1876 to 1896 and now emeritus professor, was presented to the university on commemoration day held on April 22.

COMMEMORATION DAY at the University of Glasgow was observed on April 22, when Professor Gray, the successor of Lord Kelvin in the chair of natural philosophy, delivered an oration on Kelvin's work. Honorary degrees were conferred, including the doctorate of laws on Colonel David Bruce, C.B., of the Royal Army Medical Corps; James Johnston Dobbie, director of the Royal Scottish Museum, and Robert Kidston, the geologist.

At the Institution of Electrical Engineers on April 30 Professor Silvanus P. Thompson gave the first Kelvin memorial lecture, his subject being "The Life and Work of Lord Kelvin." Before the lecture Mr. H. F. Parshall presented the institution with a bust of Benjamin Franklin on behalf of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

THE Fothergillian medal of the London Medical Society has been presented to Sir Almroth Wright, F.R.S.

*Nature* states that at the annual general meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers on April 28, Mr. J. C. Inglis was elected president of the institution. The council has made the following awards for papers read and discussed during the past session: A Telford gold medal to Mr. W. Barclay Parsons (New York); a Watt gold medal to Sir Whately Eliot; George Stephenson gold medals to Sir John Ottley, K.C.I.E., Dr. A. W. Brightmore, and Messrs. J. S. Wilson and W. Gore; Telford premiums to Messrs. F. W. Davis (Darlington), C. R. S. Kirkpatrick (Newcastle-on-Tyne), Hugh T. Ker (Glasgow), G. H. Scott, R. R. Gales (India) and S. H. Ellis.

PROFESSOR H. POINCARÉ, professor of astronomy in the Paris École polytechnique, has retired with the title of honorary professor.

PROFESSOR IRA O. BAKER, for thirty-four years connected with the Department of Civil Engineering of the University of Illinois, has been granted by the trustees leave of absence for one year. Professor Baker will devote

himself to the work of revising his book on "Masonry Construction." The executive duties of the department of civil engineering will, during his absence, be assumed by Professor J. P. Brooks.

MR. E. P. TAYLOR, of the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station, has become entomologist of the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station at Mountain Grove, Mo.

MR. H. J. FRANKLIN, who takes his doctor's degree at Amherst in June, has accepted a position with the Minnesota state entomologist at St. Anthony Park, Minn. The U. S. National Museum has recently issued a report "On a Collection of Physanopterous Insects from Barbadoes and St. Vincent Islands" prepared by him. He is also engaged in a work on "Bumble Bees of America" under the same auspices.

THE Croonian lecture before the Royal Society was delivered on May 14 by Professor G. Retzius, of Stockholm, on "The Structure of the Central Nervous System of the Higher and Lower Animals."

DR. R. S. WOODWARD, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, addressed the Phi Beta Kappa of New York on May 18, the subject being "The Carnegie Institution of Washington and its Work."

DR. RAYMOND PEARL, biologist of the Maine Experiment Station, lectured before the Portland Society of Natural History on the evening of April 21. The subject of the lecture was "The Improvement of Plants and Animals by Breeding."

DR. H. F. OSBORN, president of the American Museum of Natural History, sailed on May 9 to visit the museums of Paris, Madrid, Brussels and Lyons, lecturing at the last university.

PROFESSOR N. M. FENNEMAN, of the department of geology of the University of Cincinnati, will sail for Naples on May 23. He will there join Professor Davis for the study of physiographic problems in northern Italy and France, and will attend the meeting of the Ninth International Geographical Congress.

MR. CHESTER A. REEDS has been engaged by the University of Cincinnati to classify and

rearrange the fossil collection and to supplement it by acquisitions from the vicinity of Cincinnati. Mr. Reeds has been acting professor of geology in the University of Oklahoma this year.

PROFESSOR MORRIS B. CRAWFORD, Foss professor of physics at Wesleyan University, will sail for Europe on July 4 to spend the summer in England, France and Switzerland.

MR. MARTIN J. IORNS, horticulturist at the Experiment Station, Mayaguez, P. R., has gone to Cuba and Florida to investigate the citrus and pineapple industries.

MR. L. W. Hawley, expert on wood distillation for the Forest Service, has left Washington for Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho, to investigate the possibilities of a future turpentine industry in the northwestern portion of the United States.

PROFESSOR AUGUST MARTIN, of Berlin, is visiting this country and will attend the sessions of the American Medical Association and the American Gynecological Society.

THE American Museum of Natural History will send out three parties in search of fossil vertebrates this summer as follows: (1) To the Upper Cretaceous of Montana, Mr. Barnum Brown in charge. (2) To the Miocene of northwestern Nebraska, Dr. W. D. Matthew in charge. (3) To the Permian of Texas, Dr. E. C. Case in charge.

A CABLEGRAM to the New York *Herald* states that the members of the South Sea expedition organized by the newly established Hamburg Scientific Institute for ethnographical exploration in the Polynesian Islands took leave on May 15 at a special meeting of the institute. The expedition will start from Hong Kong on the Hamburg-American line steamship *Peiho*, specially chartered for that purpose for two years. Its leader, Professor Fuelleborn, is well known as an explorer of East Africa, and is assistant at the Hamburg Institute for Tropical Diseases.

PROFESSOR GILBERT M. GOWELL, who recently severed his connection with the University of Maine after twenty-five years' service, during which his work had been largely concerned with experiments on poultry, killed

himself on May 6, at the age of sixty-three years.

DR. PIERRE JACQUES ANTOINE BÉCHAMP, formerly professor at Montpellier and Lille, eminent for his researches in organic chemistry, died on April 15, at the age of ninety-two years.

THE deaths are also announced of M. C. E. Chamberland, the sub-director of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, at the age of fifty-seven, and of M. Alfred Riche, professor of mineral chemistry at the Sorbonne from 1874 to 1899, at the age of seventy-eight.

THE American Nature-study Society will hold a conference on the Training of Teachers of Nature-study at Cleveland, Ohio, on the afternoon of July 3. This conference may be regarded as preliminary to a more extensive consideration of the same topic at Baltimore next December.

THE German Association of Men of Science and Physicians will hold its annual meeting this year at Cologne from September 20 to 26.

THE Eighth International Congress of hydrology, climatology, geology and physical therapy will be held from April 4 to 10, 1909, in Algiers.

THE Chemical Society of Rome, the Chemical Society of Milan, and the Association of Industrial Chemists of Turin will unite to form the Italian Chemical Society.

A SCIENTIFIC society has been formed in Mexico with the title "La Alianza Científica Universal." It is described as a ramification of a general confraternity of scientific men which was founded in Paris by M. Leon de Rosny and is intended to include the scientific men of Europe and Latin America. The active president of the Mexican society is Professor Alfonso Herrera, while the president of the republic is honorary president and all the members of his cabinet are honorary members of the Alianza. The list of active members in the federal district consists of professors and professional men—scientific and technical—and government officials.

ACCORDING to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* the annual congress of the Russian Pirogoff Medical Association, the national organization, can not be held this year, as the authorities have refused the usual permit. The February number of the journal issued by the organization was confiscated recently on account of an article by Dr. W. Kanel which failed to pass the censor on account of its alleged revolutionary tendency. The editor of the journal, Dr. J. W. Popoff, is also held legally responsible for permitting the publication of the article.

At the recent meeting of the National Academy of Sciences held in Washington the following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That four members of the academy be appointed by the president as a committee on paleontological correlation, including two specialists in invertebrate and vertebrate paleontology, respectively. The present committee shall serve two years only and be eligible to reappointment or substitution of new members in 1910. The committee shall have power to extend its membership so as to secure American and international cooperation.

In compliance with the resolution, the president appointed Messrs. H. F. Osborn and William B. Scott in the field of vertebrate paleontology and Messrs. C. D. Walcott and William H. Dall in the field of invertebrate paleontology.

ON the recommendation of Professor David Todd, of Amherst College, who visited South America and the Isthmus last year, eastern standard time has been adopted at Panama, per order No. 167 of the chairman of the Isthmian Canal Commission. The change went into effect on April 27, the newly adopted standard time being 54 minutes faster than Panama railroad time previously kept, and 18 minutes faster than the local astronomical time at Panama. All departments and divisions of the Isthmian Canal Commission have since that date observed the new standard time. The proposition to adopt the same standard is now before the Ecuadorian government, and Professor Todd has recently received word that the National Geographical Society of Lima has recommended to the

Peruvian government the adoption of eastern standard, or 75th meridian, time for the whole of Peru.

EIGHT new drainage districts have been organized in the southeastern part of Wisconsin by the soils department of the state university experiment station. This is a particularly favorable season for this reclamation work, since, owing to the dry weather of last fall, the marshes of the central and southern part of the state are much drier than usual. Professor A. R. Whitson, of the university soils department, has recently investigated three of these districts and found that they can be reclaimed successfully and profitably by drainage. The largest of these—the Norway and Dover district in Racine County—is a tract of 17,000 acres of shallow muck underlaid with clay. This land, which is now of little value, as only wild grass can be cut on it once in two or three years, will unquestionably show a high degree of fertility after drainage, when hay, corn and other farm crops will be grown.

THE *Yale Alumni Weekly* states that the increased use of the Peabody Museum, owing to the recent Sunday opening, and the cramped space for exhibiting the large specimens and the increasingly large collections have directed attention to the plan for future enlargement. A design for the completed building, drawn by the architect of the wing already erected, J. Cleveland Cady, of New York City, was approved by the late Professor O. C. Marsh, and the drawing now hangs on the walls of one of the office rooms on the second floor of the museum. It represents a large central hall with a wing exactly like the present structure extending down to Library Street. The cost of the central hall alone is estimated at about \$300,000, and the accumulated building fund for the purpose is reported at about \$150,000. The architect recently communicated with Treasurer McClung with reference to submitting revised plans for the completed museum to meet present needs. Nothing definite has been done in regard to the plans and it is possible that when an adequate museum is erected it may be on the university's new property to the north of the present campuses.

ONE of the most important economic movements of the day about which the general public has yet learned little is the concerted action of owners of timber in different parts of the country in organizing associations to protect their holdings from fire. In the Pacific northwest, the Washington Forest Fire Association has just elected officers at Seattle and begun work for the year with 3,000,000 acres under its care. The plans include a system of patrol by rangers resembling the work done by the United States Forest Service in guarding against and extinguishing fires. Organizations of similar kind and for a like purpose are at work in Oregon and Idaho. In the latter state, a portion of the expense is borne by taxation and paid from the state treasury. A western railroad company which holds large tracts of timber has taken steps to guard its property from fire, and during the short time that its plans have been in operation, it has met with most encouraging success. Similar work is being done on the other side of the continent. Forest owners in Maine have gone to work in the same systematic way to control the forests' great enemy, fire. Like organizations are found in other parts of the country, showing how fully it is now realized that protection against fire is of the greatest importance. It is safe to say that fires in this country have destroyed more timber than lumbermen have cut. When timber was abundant, the waste passed almost unnoticed, but now that a scarcity is at hand and an actual wood famine threatens in the near future, the owners of forest lands are waking up and taking action to save what is left.

THE lectureship on physic founded at St. John's College, Cambridge, by Thomas Linacre in 1515 has hitherto been held for a term of years. It is now, as we learn from *The British Medical Journal*, converted into an annual office, and every year some person of eminence will be asked to deliver one public lecture in the Easter term. This ancient lectureship has been held in the past by many distinguished men; among them were William Barondale, Thomas Gisborne and Sir Thomas Watson, all presidents of the Royal College of

Physicians of London, and by Sir Isaac Pennington, John Haviland and Sir George Paget, who were Regius professors of physic in the university. William Heberden was also a Linacre lecturer, so were Henry Paman and Henry Briggs, who were also Gresham professors. The last named was the inventor of the decimal system of logarithms, and was not a medical man. Perhaps the most distinguished members of the laity who have held the lectureship were Matthew Prior, the poet and diplomatist, and Edward Stillingfleet, Bishop of Worcester. From 1894 until his appointment to be principal of Glasgow University the lectureship was held by Dr. Donald MacAlister. The first lecture under the new scheme was given on May 6, by Dr. Osler, regius professor of medicine in the University of Oxford, who took for his subject Thomas Linacre, his life and work.

THE total cost of the buildings erected in the principal cities of the United States in 1907 was \$661,076,286, according to Mr. Jefferson Middleton, of the U. S. Geological Survey, who has collected statistics on this subject in connection with his work on the clay-working industries. Compared with the cost of buildings in the same cities in 1906, these figures show a net decrease of \$17,634,683, or 2.60 per cent.; they are, however, 2.55 per cent. in excess of the figures for 1905 and 40.86 per cent. greater than in 1904. Although the total cost of buildings in the 49 cities reporting was decreased, the number of permits increased from 181,174 in 1906 to 184,055 in 1907. In some cities more than one building was erected under one permit, but as a rule a permit was issued for each building. The city showing the greatest decrease in cost of buildings is New York, the value of whose operations fell off \$41,591,982, or 26.84 per cent. St. Louis showed the next largest decrease—\$8,045,526, or 26.87 per cent.; next is Chicago, which reported a falling off of \$5,616,245, or 8.68 per cent. Philadelphia, Boston and Brooklyn also showed decreases in 1907, though Brooklyn nearly held its own, the decrease being only \$149,304, or 0.21 per cent., a better showing than that of any other

of the very large cities in which normal conditions prevailed. In Baltimore, where large gains had been reported in 1904 and 1905 as the result of the fire in 1904, the cost of building operations also decreased, though it was more than twice as great in 1907 as in 1903, when the cost was but \$3,327,225. It is probable that most of the decreases were due to the financial disturbance during the latter part of the year, although the decrease in Los Angeles, which has shown remarkable increases in past years, appears to have been due rather to scarcity and high cost of material than to the business depression. Twenty-five cities reported an increase in cost of building operations. In San Francisco, owing to the local conditions following the fire, the increase was \$56,574,844, the total amount being nearly 162 per cent. in excess of the cost for 1906. The total number of permits issued in 1907 for buildings in San Francisco was 12,126, and the cost of the buildings was \$91,502,240. In 1905, the year prior to the fire, its building operations cost \$18,268,753. In Cambridge, Mass., which, with the exception of San Francisco, showed the largest proportionate gain, the erection of several large mercantile buildings swelled the total. Cleveland's building industries seem not to have been affected by the financial depression, showing an increase of \$2,915,433, or 22.47 per cent., over the figures for 1906. The reports for Milwaukee show an increase of more than a million dollars, due to the increase in the number of fire-proof or fire-resisting buildings erected.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A RESEARCH laboratory of applied chemistry will be established shortly at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with Professor W. A. Walker in charge.

THE Hong Kong correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* writes that the governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, convened a meeting on March 18, to consider the possibility of establishing a university in Hong Kong. He announced that Mr. Mody, a Parsee, had placed £15,000 at his disposal for that purpose. The governor was willing to recommend the gov-